

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are active in the present application. Claims 7-11 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to add a Markush group for the activator. Support for amended Claim 1 is found on page 7, lines 1-8 of the specification. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--1. (Amended) A process for removing COS and further acidic gases from a hydrocarbonaceous fluid stream which contains CO₂, COS and possibly further acidic gases, especially H₂S or mercaptans, as impurities, which comprises

intimately contacting the fluid stream in an absorption or extraction zone with a scrubbing liquor consisting of an aqueous amine solution containing from 1.5 to 5 mol/l of an aliphatic alkanolamine of from 2 to 12 carbon atoms and from 0.4 to 1.7 mol/l of [a primary or at least one secondary amine as] activator selected from piperazine, methyl piperazine and morpholine,

removing the COS essentially completely from the fluid stream, and

separating the substantially COS-decontaminated fluid stream and the COS-loaded scrubbing liquor and discharging them from the absorption or extraction zone.

3. (Amended) A process as claimed in [either of claims 1 and 2] claim 1, wherein the total amine content of the scrubbing liquid is from 20 to 70% by weight, preferably from 40 to 50% by weight.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the alkanolamine used is tertiary alkanolamine.--

Claims 7-11 (cancelled).